

Support Legislation to Reinforce Congressional Intent Behind Grain Inspection Exceptions

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to join me in co-sponsoring the Grain Inspection Improvement Act. This legislation will allow grain handlers to reinstate grain inspection exceptions wrongfully revoked due to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) misinterpretation of a 2015 law.

The Agricultural Reauthorizations Act (ARA) passed the House by voice vote and was signed in to law in September 2015. Unfortunately, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) interpretation of a provision in this law is negatively impacting numerous grain elevators who previously had experienced services issues with their official grain inspection agency and received exceptions to have their grain inspected by an agency outside their official service boundary.

I support the exception program and worked within the parameters of the 2015 ARA to include language designed to allow for more of these exceptions to be considered and granted. The intent was to provide more options, not fewer options. In the final rule for this legislation, GIPSA even stated they would honor the 95 exception agreements already on the books.

Imagine the disappointment when some grain elevator managers across the country who had previously received exceptions were sent notices from GIPSA, effectively ending their exceptions and informing them they would have to go back to being inspected by their geographically assigned inspector- even if they had experienced service problems with that official inspection agency before.

These grain elevators are the customers, yet they're not allowed a say in the process, not consistently given enough time to plan for the disruption, and are the last to find out about this drastic change. For more information or to join me as a cosponsor, please contact Jimmy Ballard (jimmy.ballard@mail.house.gov) in my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Davis".

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress